Mr. Metzler
The Plain Dealer

Mrs. Wilbur W. Merkel has exercised taste and knowledge in building up one of the finest private collections of African and Oceanic art in this country. A fraction of this collection is exhibited with the Ben Heller collection.

The large Nimba mask from the Baga Tribe in West Africa (Guinea) is one of the largest and finest examples of this type known. Equally fine is a large Banda mask from the same tribe. Both of these were used in tribal dances. Both objects are now on display in the HELLER Exhibition.

Mrs. Merkel's collection also contains one of the finest Benin ivory masks dating from the 16th century. The few other examples are preserved in public collections here and abroad: in the British Museum, the Museum of Primitive Art in New York, etc. This mask will be lent to The Cleveland Museum of Art for incorporation with its permanent collection.

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